



National Workgroup to Address the Needs of Children and Youth Who Are LGBTQI2-S and Their Families

~Affirming LGBTQI2-S youth and families through full inclusion~

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National Event

REMINDER: Forty to None Day is Wednesday, April 29

Approximately 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBT while about 7% of the general youth population does the same. On Wednesday, April 29, the True Colors Fund will be joining people across the country – including local service providers, national advocacy organizations, elected officials, celebrities, LGBT youth, and community members – to launch *the first ever #40toNoneDay*. This national day focuses on raising awareness about LGBT youth homelessness. Get involved at www.40toNoneDay.org.

Federal News

National Initiative to Prevent LGBTQ Youth Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is leading the first-of-its-kind LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative to identify successful strategies to ensure that no young person is left without a home because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. The Initiative began with two pilot communities—Cincinnati, Ohio, and Houston, Texas—that developed and are implementing local, community-wide prevention plans. These plans include strategies to prevent LGBTQ youth from becoming homeless and intervene as early as possible if they do become homeless. Read more about this initiative and

access the community plans [online](#).

Resource

Safe Space, Safe Places: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for Traumatized LGBT Youth

To accompany its new video **Safe Space, Safe Places: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for Traumatized LGBT Youth**, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has released a **video resource guide**. After having staff view the video, agencies can use the resource as a training tool in follow-up meetings or in supervision. Safe Space, Safe Places features five LGBTQ youth describing how trauma has affected their ability to feel safe when seeking services and highlights how bias impedes optimal care. NCTSN presenters discuss specific steps that professionals and organizations can take to create safer and more welcoming environments for LGBTQ youth experiencing trauma.

Resource

LGBT Policy Spotlight: Conversion Therapy Bans

This resource from the Movement Advancement Project outlines the harms of conversion therapy and provides an overview of current laws protecting LGBT youth. California, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. have already passed laws to prevent state licensed mental health professionals from attempting to change the sexual orientation or gender identity/expression of minor patients. Both states and the District based the law on the unanimous consensus of the nation's leading medical and mental health associations, which have determined that such treatments have no scientific basis and put youth at risk of serious harms, including elevated rates of anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide. Since last year, lawmakers in 23 other states have introduced similar legislation. Learn more [here](#).

Resource

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Policy Statement and Practice Parameters

As a reference, in 2009 AACAP issued its **Policy Statement on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Civil Rights**, followed by its **Practice Parameter on Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Sexual Orientation, Gender Nonconformity, and Gender Discordance in Children and Adolescents** in 2012. Access these valuable resources to inform your work.

Research

Allowing Transgender Kids to Transition Improves Mental Health

A new study reports that transgender youth often have mental health problems and that their depression and anxiety improve greatly with recognition and treatment of gender dysphoria. The results were also at

The Endocrine Society's 97th annual meeting in San Diego. You can access the [press release](#) about this research and the [conference presentation overview](#) online.

Video

What It's Like to Be Intersex

This [video](#) describes what it is like to be intersex. As the video explores further, some individuals are born with a reproductive/sexual anatomy that does not fit typical definitions of male or female.

Conference

Gender Spectrum Conference, July 10 & 11

The registration website for the 2015 Gender Spectrum Conference for youth and families and the Professionals' Symposium has launched. The latter is ideal for professionals that work with gender-expansive youth and/or their families. Participants will take part in programming and activities, and receive resources designed to build their capacity for working with families and young people around issues of gender. Learn more about the conference [here](#).

Accessing Updates

Missed a Biweekly Update?

If you missed a workgroup update, you can access them online in our [2015 update archive](#).

Want to receive these updates and aren't already? Address an email to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.AIR.ORG with a blank subject line. In the body of the email, write **SUBSCRIBE LGBTQ_Youth** and send the email.

Have suggestions for future updates? Email jpoirier@air.org.

Visit the Workgroup online:
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